

Wisconsin Agriculture and Economics



Wisconsin cash receipts for all farm commodities reached a new record high in 2004 at \$6.86 billion. Cash receipts grew 16 percent from the previous year. The impetus for the jump was caused by strong milk prices. Milk cash receipts expanded 30 percent to \$3.69 billion. The annual average price farmers received for one hundred pounds of milk was \$16.90, a new record high for 2004. Livestock, dairy, and poultry made up 74 percent of the total for all commodities. Receipts for both meat animals and poultry and eggs rose 12 percent from 2003. Sales of cattle and calves totaled \$801 million, the second highest source of income for state farmers.

Cash receipts of all crops dipped 2 percent from the previous year to \$1.78 billion. Field crops increased 1 percent in 2004 and totaled \$1.04 billion. Corn, at \$669 million, accounted for 38 percent of the all crop total and was nearly the same as the previous year. Soybean cash receipts totaled \$237 million, one percent higher than in 2003 but 3 percent lower than 2002. Vegetable cash receipts declined 9 percent to \$345 million. Potatoes, at \$161 million, fell 11 percent from the previous year. Processing snap beans rose 22 percent to \$37.1 million.

Farm production expenditures for Wisconsin were published for the first time and covered the last two years. Expenditures rose 12 percent from 2003 to \$6.23 billion in 2004. The top three expense items were: feed, farm services, and labor.

Land sales figure continued to increase in the state. The average value of all agricultural land sold including building rose 16 percent to \$3,766 per acre. Land sold that will continue in agriculture averaged \$2,797 per acre. For 2005, the average value of all farm real estate in Wisconsin was \$2,850, an increase of 14 percent from 2004. Cropland was valued at \$2,600 per acre and pasture land was \$1,400 for 2005. Cropland rental rates stabilized at \$70, the same as in 2004.

The number of farms remained the same as the previous year at 76,500. The land in farms declined 100,000 acres to 15.5 million acres, which caused a slight decrease in the average size of a farm to 203 acres, down one acre. Although the number of farms remained the same, the number of farms grossing \$250,000 or more increased while those under \$10,000 declined.